25X1

COMOR-D-48/47

DRAFT

24 September 1963



UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT: Need for Additional ARGON in 1963

1. The Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance has been briefed on the results of the last ARGON, 9058A, and, as a result of this briefing, in para 6 recommends another ARGON during 1963.

2. 9058A had no significant malfunction and both the stellar and the main camera worked exceptionally well. However, because the system in 9058A lacked an adequate programming capability and because it encountered bad luck with weather, significant gaps requiring coverage still exist. The system in 9058A turned off during hours of darkness but could not be programmed to avoid concentrating the majority of the photography over water. This factor coupled with bad weather resulted in only 985 frames over land when there was less than 50% cloud cover.

3. The briefing clearly displayed the gaps remaining in ARGON coverage and described the need to fill these with a side lap of 30%. It should be emphasized that this need and the recommendation to use another ARGON this year are pertinent only to achieving adequate geodetic position to hit targets within the USSR



[redacted]

25X1

Copy 19 of 49





25X1

and is not part of any comprehensive program to cover the world land mass.

4. Unlike 9058A, the package designed for 9059A can include synchronous programming which will permit major concentration over the land masses. It is also planned to go for a 6-day mission rather than a 5-day one. This will provide a larger photographic scale and the combination of the added day and the ability to concentrate on land masses considerably enhances the possibility of filling the gaps.

5. COMOR concludes that the task of establishing sufficient geodetic position to permit optimum accuracy against targets in the USSR has not yet been achieved and needs to be completed. The Secretary of Defense in emphasizing the short-term military need for geodetic position accuracy has also emphasized the longer-term requirement in observing that all reduction in the error in our accuracy equates to a general reduction in stockpile.

6. COMOR recommends that 9059A be fired as presently scheduled, on or about 25 October.

Chairman
Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

Copies 2, 3 State TCO
4 DIA
5, 6, 7, 8 DIA TCO
9 OACSI TCO
10, 11 ONI TCO
12-15 AFNIN TCO
16, 17 NSA TCO
18, 19 NRO TCO

25X1

COMOR-D-48/47

| | |
|---|---|
| Copy 1 | DCI TCO for USIB/S |
| 20 | TSO CIA |
| 21-29 | Asst/OPS(NPIC) |
| 30 | LS/PID(NPIC) |
| 31 | TCO DDI SpeCenter |
| 32, 33 | CGS |
| 34, 35 | CIA Member COMOR |
| 36 | CGS/ReqBr/ReconGrp |
| 37 | Ch/COMOR WkgGrp |
| 38 | AD/SI |
| 39 | DDP TCO |
| 40 | DDS&T TCO |
| 41 | AD/OSA |
| 42 | FA/OSA |
| 43 | ID/OSA |
| 44 | SS/OSA |
| 45 | SAL/OSA |
| 46-49 | SA/DDS&T |



25X1